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DISCHARGE OF SEWAGE INTO STREAMS.

A JUDICIAL DECISION UPHOLDING THE RIGHT OF A MUNICIPALITY TO DISCHARGE SEWAGE INTO A STREAM.

The Oregon State Board of Health brought suit against the city of Silverton to restrain the city from discharging its sewage into a creek. The Supreme Court of Oregon decided that the State Board of Health had authority to bring the suit, but the evidence did not show that the pollution of the stream was sufficient to constitute a menace to health. For this reason the suit was dismissed. In the opinion Mr. Justice Eakin drew a distinction between the discharge of municipal sewage into a stream when the bed and banks are owned by riparian proprietors and when they are owned by the State. In the former case the legislature has no right to authorize any use of the stream which injures the owners without compensation to them.

The opinion is published in this issue of the Public Health Reports, page 465.

THE RECENT GRIPLIKE OUTBREAKS.

The department of health of New York City has given out the information that from a bacteriological study of 50 cases diagnosed as grip during the recent outbreak of griplike infection, the streptococcus was found in 26 cases, the *Diplococcus lanceolatus* in 19, the *Micrococcus catarrhalis* in 18, and the bacillus of influenza in 9. Other organisms commonly present in sputum and nasal discharges were also found. A somewhat similar study made some months ago in New York City showed the influenza bacillus in only 1 specimen out of 20 examined. The presence of the influenza bacillus in 9 of the 50 cases of the recent outbreak in New York City suggests that it was a factor in the outbreak, although griplike infections due to the streptococcus and *Micrococcus catarrhalis* were probably greater factors, also that the pneumococcus was probably instrumental in producing pneumonias and frequently of complicating the other infections.